



Psychedelic Medicines and the Mind

February 2-4, 2018

Psychedelics produce powerful effects on the brain and mind, including intensification of thoughts and feelings, alterations of sensory perception, and loosening of psychological defenses. Psychedelics reveal connections between brain physiology and consciousness, among the most mysterious and exciting arenas in contemporary science. In their plant and fungal forms, psychedelics have been used for millennia for medicinal and spiritual purposes. Scientific research with psychedelics has taken place for more than a century, and was one of the driving forces in the early days of biological psychiatry. However, the widespread popular use of some of these substances in the 1960s contributed to legal regulation that closed down human research. Now, after 30 years of quiescence, clinical research with psychedelics has returned to mainstream science.

This workshop covers the history, botany, chemistry, psychology, and sociology of psychedelics, leading up to the re-emergence of contemporary research addressing the medicinal and spiritual aspects of these substances. The workshop will also explore the powerful and grounding mind states that can be cultivated through meditation practice, and examine how these states relate to states of consciousness associated with psychedelics. This workshop can be of value to anyone, including health professionals from all clinical areas who wish to more deeply investigate the mind-body connection.

Continuing Education credit for MFTs, LCSWs, and nurses.

David Presti, PhD, teaches neurobiology, psychology, and cognitive science at the University of California in Berkeley, and worked for many years in the clinical treatment of addiction at the San Francisco VA Medical Center.

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